

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The diphenylphosphine sulfides useful in the practice of this invention can be prepared generally by alkylation of diphenylphosphine sulfide in methylene chloride at a temperature of from about 0°C to about room temperature for from about 30 minutes to about 24 hours in the presence of powdered potassium hydroxide. They can also be prepared using the teaching described in copending and commonly assigned U.S.S.N. 10/731,251 [[_____]] (filed on even date herewith by Simpson, Burleva, and Sakizadeh, entitled "Photothermographic Materials Containing Silver Halide Sensitized with Combination of Compounds", and having attorney docket number 85733/JLT) that is incorporated herein by reference. --

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 54, line 12 and 19, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- Additional useful toners are substituted and unsubstituted mercaptotriazoles as described for example in U.S. Patent 3,832,186 (Masuda et al.), U.S. Patent 6,165,704 (Miyake et al.), U.S. Patent 5,149,620 (Simpson et al.), and U.S. Patents 6,713,240 and 6,841,343 (Lynch et al.) ~~copending and commonly assigned U.S. Serial No. 10/193,443 (filed July 11, 2002 by Lynch, Zou, and Ulrich) and U.S. Serial No. 10/192,944 (filed July 11, 2002 by Lynch, Ulrich, and Zou)~~, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Also useful are the phthalazine compounds described in commonly assigned U.S. Patent 6,605,481 (Ramsden et al.), the triazine thione compounds described in U.S. Patent 6,703,191 (Lynch et al.) ~~U.S. Serial No. 10/341,754 (filed January 14, 2003 by Lynch, Ulrich, and Skeog)~~, and the heterocyclic disulfide compounds described in U.S. Patent 6,737,227 (Lynch et al.) ~~U.S. Serial No. 10/384,244 (filed March 7, 2003 by Lynch and Ulrich)~~, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 64, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The photothermographic materials prepared according to this invention can include one or more antistatic agents in any of the layers including the photothermographic emulsion layer, or in separate conductive layers, on either or both sides of the support. Thus, conductive components include, but are not limited to, soluble salts (for example, chlorides or nitrates), evaporated metal layers, or ionic polymers such as those described in U.S. Patent 2,861,056 (Minsk) and U.S. Patent 3,206,312 (Sterman et al.), or insoluble inorganic salts such as those described in U.S. Patent 3,428,451 (Trevoy), electroconductive underlayers such as those described in U.S. Patent 5,310,640 (Markin et al.), electronically-conductive metal antimonate particles such as those described in U.S. Patent 5,368,995 (Christian et al.), and electrically-conductive metal-containing particles dispersed in a polymeric binder such as those described in EP 0 678 776 A1 (Melpolder et al.). Particularly useful conductive particles are the non-acicular metal antimonate particles described in U.S. Patent 6,689,546 (LaBelle et al.) ~~pending and commonly assigned U.S. Serial No. 10/304,224 (filed on November 27, 2002 by LaBelle, Sakizadeh, Ludemann, Bhave, and Pham)~~. All of the above patents and patent applications are incorporated herein by reference. Other antistatic agents are well known in the art. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 65, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Layers to reduce emissions from the film may also be present, including the polymeric barrier layers described in U.S. Patent 6,352,819 (Kenney et al.), U.S. Patent 6,352,820 (Bauer et al.), and U.S. Patent 6,420,102 (Bauer et al.), and U.S. Patent 6,667,148 (Rao et al.) ~~pending and commonly assigned U.S. Serial No. 10/341,747 (filed January 14, 2003 by Rao, Hammerschmidt, Bauer, Kress, and Miller)~~, and U.S. Patent 6,746,831 (Hunt) ~~U.S. Serial No. 10/351,814 (filed January 27, 2003 by Hunt)~~, all incorporated herein by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 86, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Example 3a: --

Please replace TABLE III beginning at page 88, line 1 with the following rewritten table:

TABLE III

Example	Addition of ZnBr ₂	Dmin	SP-2	AC-1	AC-2
Invention 3a-1	After PS Compound	0.28	3.88	3.84	3.27
Invention 3a-2	Before PS Compound	0.31	4.04	3.41	2.52

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 86, lines 5 and 11 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- To 25 g of each of the photothermographic emulsion formulations prepared above in Example 3a, was added 18.2 g of YSrTaO₄ phosphor having an average size of 4.0 μ m. The materials were mixed for 5 minutes to prepare the final photothermographic coating formulations. Photothermographic materials were coated and dried as described in Example 3a[[4]]. The approximate phosphor coating weights were from 76 to 77 g/m².

The photothermographic materials were imaged, developed, and evaluated as described above in Example 3a[[4]]. The sensitometric results, shown below in TABLE IV, demonstrate the effects on Dmin, speed and contrast by the addition of ZnBr₂ before or after the addition of PS compound (PS-1) and before oxidizing compound (PHP). --

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 91, lines 2 and 8 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- Photothermographic emulsion and protective topcoat formulations were prepared as described in Example 3a above. The emulsion formulations were made with compound PS-1. The place in the preparation of the

photothermographic formulation at which a solution of ZnBr₂ was added is shown in Table VI. The solution was added either as a solution of 0.169 g in 1.19 g of MeOH or as two additions of 0.0845 g in 0.595 g of MEOH.

The photothermographic formulations were coated, dried, imaged, developed, and evaluated as described in Example 3a. --

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 93, lines 2 and 8 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- To 25 g of each of the photothermographic emulsion formulations prepared above in Example 3a, was added 18.2 g of YSrTaO₄ phosphor having an average size of 4.0 μ m. The materials were mixed for 5 minutes to prepare the final photothermographic coating formulations. Photothermographic materials were coated and dried as described in Example 3a. The approximate phosphor coating weights were from 77 to 78 g/m².

The photothermographic materials were imaged, developed, and evaluated as described above in Example 3a. The sensitometric results, shown below in TABLE VII, demonstrate the effects on the Dmin, speed and contrast by the placement of the ZnBr₂ before or split before and after the PS-1 compound. Higher contrast was observed with the placement of the ZnBr₂ added before the PHP but after compound PS-1. The fastest speed was observed with the ZnBr₂ split before and after compound PS-1. --